

**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Marine Boundary Working Group Meeting
August 9, 2005**

Minutes

The Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG) met at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC on August 9, 2005. An agenda is included at the end of the minutes, as is a list of items that were distributed at the meeting. Individuals who wish to request copies of these items should contact David Stein at *Dave.Stein@noaa.gov*.

Highlights

Cindy Fowler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. This was the ninth meeting of the MBWG. The last meeting was held on May 5, 2004. The objectives of the meeting were to highlight some of the recent activities by members of the working group, discuss new requirements outlined in the Energy Bill, identify areas for collaboration, and discuss current and future work items.

Agenda Items

1. Agency Updates

- **Baseline committee update**
Meredith Westington (NOAA Office of Coast Survey) reported that the Committee will be reviewing the baseline and maritime limits for OR, WA, and GA on August 30. An approval in this area will complete the digital maritime limits and national baseline for the contiguous US. AK is next. Within the last few months, the Committee reviewed methods for implementing the territorial sea and other maritime zones in the Electronic Navigational Charts. The maritime zones are depicted as areas in the ENCs; therefore, the baseline including bay, river, and harbor closing lines needed to be more explicitly defined to capture the true nature of the inner limit of the territorial sea and outer limit of internal waters. Prior to now, the Committee had only considered closing lines that would affect the 3nm limit line. This thorough examination of the baseline and closing lines began with Florida, Alabama, Texas, and California. Future baseline approvals will include this detailed information.
- **Maritime Boundary Project**
Meredith Westington reported that since the last MBWG meeting, the NOAA Office of Coast Survey (OCS) has added digital maritime limits (Three Nautical Mile Line, Territorial Sea, and Contiguous Zone) for ME, NH, MA, NY, RI, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, FL, AL, MS, and LA to Web--
<http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/mbound.htm>. The Baseline Committee has approved the baseline and maritime limits for TX and CA, which will be posted shortly.

- **Marine Boundaries Best Practices Handbook**

Cindy Fowler (NOAA CSC) reported that the first committee draft of the Best Practices Handbook has been completed and distributed to the authors. Since the last meeting in May 2004, there have been two handbook authors meetings to address content related issues. Jerry Esch (NOAA CSC) has provided editing support. All authors are required to provide one last round of comments before it is distributed to the larger working group. The goal is to complete and publish the handbook in 2006.

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Doug Vandegraft (USFWS) gave a short presentation on the National Wildlife Refuge system and mapping efforts. There are currently 169 refuges that touch salt water and can be considered marine boundaries. FWS (Doug) has been working with NOAA (Joel Murray) to have the refuge boundaries reflected on the NOAA MPA website. Doug also expressed his strong desire to have FWS refuges depicted on NOAA nautical charts.

- **Minerals Management Service**

Lee Thormahlen (MMS) reported that his office in Denver will be relocated to Herndon, VA in August of 2006. Currently, no one in the Denver office is planning to move. There may be as many as 5 vacancies to be filled.

- **National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA)**

Trent Palmer (NGA) reported that NGA's Maritime Division has a contract with EarthSat to provide NGA with a global shoreline (except Antarctica). This data will be derived from Landsat and theoretically at MHW and 1:50K scale. Trent also reported that he is working on a maritime boundary database; however, at this point it is a classified system.

- **MBWG Web site**

David Stein (NOAA CSC) reported that the Web site has been converted to the Coastal Services Center's new Web template. All of the content is the same, but the site has a new look and feel.

2. **Continued development of a Marine Boundary Information System/ Interagency Marine Cadastre**

- **Review of goals and objectives and recent policy developments – Lee**

Thormahlen (MMS). Lee gave a brief overview of the recently passed Energy Bill. The bill calls for a coordinated outer continental shelf mapping initiative led by the Department of Interior. "Coordinated OCS Mapping Initiative" as spelled out in the Energy Bill, pgs. 467-468, as signed by the President on August 8, 2005. ("The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish an interagency comprehensive digital mapping initiative for the outer Continental Shelf ..."). Details of how this will be coordinated and implemented have yet to be developed. It is anticipated that this new bill will provide the policy framework for the development of an interagency marine cadastre.

- **Marine Managed Areas Inventory and Mapping Efforts – Joel Murray NOAA's Special Projects Office (SPO).** Joel Murray (NOAA SPO) gave an overview of the efforts underway to develop a comprehensive inventory of Marine Managed Areas for the United States. The inventory is part of the Marine Protected Areas Initiative led by NOAA and the Department of Interior. Joel also gave a demo of the new MPA ArcIMS Internet Mapping Service. For further information, Joel's presentation can be downloaded at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/htm/outreach.htm>.
- **Technical requirements for a Marine Boundary Information System – Daniel Martin, NOAA Coastal Services Center.** It has always been the desire of the MBWG to develop a distributed system of marine boundaries so that ownership resides with the originating agency. The technology exists for this to occur; however, many agencies have not implemented it. The concepts of Web Services and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGS) mapping specifications were presented, with a focus on implementation. There will be a follow up to this discussion at the next meeting. Daniel's presentation can be downloaded at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/htm/outreach.htm>.

3. Group discussion on updated MBWG Work Plan.

David Stein distributed the 2006 work plan but it was decided that members needed more time to review. The work plan will be distributed via e-mail after the meeting and members will have two weeks to provide comments. The updated work plan will then be posted to the MBWB Web site and submitted to the FGDC.

4. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held in the winter timeframe. The meeting place will be determined at a later date.

Action Items

Action 1: Work on bringing EPA, NPS, Navy, and Coast Guard back to the table.

Action 2: Submit work plan to the FGDC.

Action 3: Distribute the handbook to the MBWG for review.

Handouts

1. Agenda
2. Work plan
3. List of attendees

Attendees

Cindy Fowler, NOAA CSC

Lee Thormahlen, MMS

David Stein, NOAA CSC

Daniel Martin, NOAA CSC

Doug Vandegraft, USFWS
Steve Kopach, USFWS
Mitchell Tartt, NOAA Sanctuaries
Meredith Westington, NOAA OCS
Henry Norris, Florida FWC
Kathleen Fisher, NOAA CO-OPs
Jerry Hovis, NOAA CO-OPs
Jason Racette, BLM
Bob Smith, State Department
Candace Nachman, NOAA OCS
Brian Killen, NOAA OCS
Trent Palmer, NGA
Donald Campbell, FCC
Joel Murray, NOAA SPO

Agenda

FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group Meeting
Tuesday, August 9, 2005
Federal Communications Commission, Room 7-B516
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC

8:30 Continental breakfast

8:45 Welcome and introductions

- Welcome and short introductions
- Review agenda
- Highlights from last meeting

9:00 Short Updates from Agencies, Committees, and Work Items

- Baseline Committee update - Meredith Westington, NOAA; Lee Thormahlen, MMS
- Maritime Boundary Project – Meredith Westington, NOAA
- US Fish & Wildlife Boundary Status – Doug Vandegraft
- US Park Service Boundary Status- Roger Johnson, NPS (unconfirmed)
- MMS Activities – Lee Thormahlen
- Marine Boundaries Best Practices Handbook - Cindy Fowler, NOAA
- Submerged Lands Conference and other upcoming events - Group
- MBWG Web site – David Stein, NOAA

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Continued development of a Marine Boundary Information System/Interagency Marine Cadastre

- Review of goals and objectives and recent policy Developments – Lee Thormahlen, MMS
- Technical requirements for a Marine Boundary Information System – Daniel Martin, NOAA
- Update on Marine Managed Areas Inventory and Mapping Efforts – Joel Murray, NOAA
- Working group comment/feedback

12:00 Lunch (on your own)

1:30 2006 – 2008 Work Plan - Group

2:15 Next meeting, action items

2:30 Adjourn (*MMA Boundary Handbook Authors please stay for manuscript working meeting*)

Minutes Submitted by

David Stein, NOAA Coastal Services Center
Executive Secretary/Working Group Coordinator
FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group